

We are all local musicians, promoters, venue owners or work for a local music business. We are concerned about the impact of a downtown casino on our local music scene. At a recent public information session concerning the effect of a possible casino expansion into downtown Hamilton, city council was advised by Dr. Hannah Holmes, a professor of Economics at McMaster University that a casino would very likely hurt local, independent businesses. The current revival of our wonderful downtown is due in part to a growing number of small local businesses and a strong and vibrant arts community.

The recent proposal by the Hard Rock Group and Carmens Group Inc. for a downtown casino suggests that a live music venue will be a large component of their facility. As musicians, promoters and music venue owners we have a very real concern that a large entertainment complex, run, in part, by a large American-owned corporation, could potentially harm local, independent music venues and promoters. As local independent businesses who do not have the advantage of an exclusive partnership with a gambling monopoly, we are concerned that this development will not compete on a level playing field and harm some of the many businesses who have already invested in the downtown core.

Casinos in cities across North America have been built as self-sustaining developments that use music and other forms of entertainment to prevent people from leaving or utilizing other amenities within the surrounding area.

To be clear, we do not take issue with anyone wanting to build more and larger music venues in Hamilton, however we believe that a large corporation may not be sensitive to our city's musical history, nor care about its impacts on local arts in general. As such, we are stating that should a downtown casino be pushed through at Council without a proper city-wide referendum we would choose to neither play at it nor promote for it.

Collectively,

Michael Keire/ Threshold Recording Studio

Lee Reed

Adam Bentley/ The Rest

Terra Lightfoot

Doobie Freaks

Young Rival

Junior Boys

Sonic Unyon

Lou Molinaro/This Ain't Hollywood

Jessy Lanza

Mike Renaud

Homegrown Hamilton

Ollie/ Beauty Industries

Aaron Sakala/ Lee Reed

Cowlick

Casbah

Ace Piva

Mike Trebilcock

Drew Smith

Caribou

Pick a Piper

George Pettit/ Alexisonfire

Orphx

Max Kerman/ Arkells

John Caffery/ Kids on TV

Young Empires

Wax Mannequin

Canadian Winter
Bill Majoros/ The Foreign Films
Steven McKay/ Bruce Peninsula
Tor Lukasik-Foss
Sandeep Bhandari
James Tennant
Ken Inouye
New Hands
Catherine North Studios
Mike Simon
Haolin Munk
Illitry
Jeremy Fisher
Aaron Goldstein
Dark Mean
Kojo easy Dampsey
Chore
David Dunham/DAVIDS/DivorceVideo/Don Vail
Cam Malcolm
Toledo
Secret Heights
The Kettle Black
Matt Jelly
Monster Truck
Juke Wilson
Sarah Good
Brad Germain
Sianspheric
The Caretakers
Thom Gill
Greg Santilly
San Sebastian
Jamie Smith
The Dirty Nil
Earth Wind and Choir
Magic Shadows
Annie Shaw
Social Divorce
Electroluminescent
Piranha Entertainment
Monster Fever
You, Me and the Machine
Tom Shea
Trio Arjento
Slender Loris
Crop Failure
glassEYElashes
Pucumber Sasssquash Family Band
Steve Hanson In Transit
The Safety Collective
TV Freaks
Paul Hogeterp
The Baltimore House